

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting video signals, comprising the steps of:

receiving an original video signal defining, on display, an image;

5 modifying a portion of said original video signal in order to form, on display, a modified image area of said image, thereby creating a modified video signal, this modification being visible to a viewer of the image;

transmitting the modified video signal;

10 transmitting an auxiliary signal as a sub-series of bits defining replacement video information for said modified portion of the original video signal corresponding, on display, to the modified image area of the image as a sub-series of bits, wherein said sub-series of bits is encoded by a substantially same number  
15 of bits as said modified portion of the original video signal corresponding, on display, to said modified image area.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said replacement video information corresponds, on display, to the image area of the original video signal.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary signal further includes data defining the

position and/or size, on display, of the image area corresponding to the replacement video information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the modified video signal is encoded into a bitstream and the portion of the modified video signal corresponding, on display, to the modified image area, is represented by the sub-series of bits,  
5 characterized in that the replacement video information is encoded and represented by a substantially same number of bits as the portion of the modified video signal corresponding, on display, to the modified image area.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the auxiliary signal is accommodated in user data fields of the bitstream.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the modified video signal is predictively encoded and the step of modifying is applied to pictures which are not referred to by other pictures.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the modification of the portion of the original video signal corresponding, on display, to the image area, identifies copy protection status information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7,  
wherein the original video signal is modified in such a manner that  
the modified video signal forms, on display, an image having a  
pattern that is not reproduced upon playback by conventional analog  
5 video recorders.

9. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for transmitting a video  
signal, comprising:

means for receiving an original video signal defining, on  
display, an image;

5 means for modifying a portion of said original video  
signal in order to form, on display, a modified image area of said  
image, thereby creating a modified video signal, the modification  
being visible to a viewer of the image;

means for transmitting the modified video signal; and

10 means for transmitting an auxiliary signal as a sub-series  
of bits defining, on display, a sub-image to replace the modified  
image area formed, on display, by the modified video signal, and  
wherein said auxiliary signal forming, on display, said sub-image,  
is encoded by a substantially same number of bits as the portion of  
15 said modified video signal forming, on display, said image area.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of decoding a digital video  
signal, comprising the steps of:

receiving a main bitstream representing, on display, an  
image of a video signal;

5           receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement  
video information corresponding to, on display, an image area of  
said image;

          replacing a sub-series of bits of said main bitstream  
representing said image area by said replacement video information  
10 to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said modified bitstream  
defines said sub-series by a substantially same number of bits as a  
sub-series of bits representing said image area in said main  
bitstream; and

          decoding said modified bitstream.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of transcoding a digital video  
signal, comprising the steps of:

          receiving a main bitstream representing, on display, an  
image of a video signal;

5           receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement  
video information corresponding, on display, to an image area of  
said image;

          replacing a sub-series of bits of said main bitstream  
representing said image area by said replacement video information  
10 to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said modified bitstream  
defines a sub-series of bits corresponding to said replacement  
video information by a substantially same number of bits as said  
sub-series of bits in said main bitstream; and

          transmitting said modified bitstream.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the auxiliary bitstream is accommodated in user data fields of the main bitstream.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of:

deriving the position and/or size of said image area from data included in the auxiliary bitstream.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the image area represented by said sub-series of bits of said main bitstream identifies copy

5 protection status information; and

enabling recording of the modified bitstream if said determination is positive.

15. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for decoding a digital video signal, comprising:

means for receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a video signal;

5 means for receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;

means for replacing a sub-series of bits of said main bitstream representing said image area by said replacement video information to obtain a modified bitstream, wherein said sub-series

10 is represented by a substantially same number of bits as a sub-series of bits of said auxiliary bitstream corresponding to said replacement video information representing said image area; and  
means for decoding said modified bitstream.

16. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for transcoding a digital video signal, comprising:

means for receiving a main bitstream representing an image of a video signal;

5 means for receiving an auxiliary bitstream representing replacement video information for an image area of said image;

means for replacing a sub-series of bits of said main bitstream representing said image area by a sub-series of bits representing said replacement video information to obtain a  
10 modified bitstream, wherein said sub-series of bits of said main bitstream is represented by a substantially same number of bits as said sub-series of bits of said auxiliary bitstream representing said image area; and  
means for transmitting said modified bitstream.

17. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein said arrangement further comprises:

means for determining whether the image area represented by said sub-series of bits of said main bitstream identifies copy  
5 protection status information; and

means for enabling recording of the modified bitstream if said determination is positive.

18-20. (Cancelled).